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01/23/04

Claims 1 thru 17 are canceled.

18. A patient supporting apparatus, comprising:
 - a base;
 - a pair of elongate generally parallel extending and laterally spaced support frame members;
 - a pedestal mounted to and extending between a top side of said base and each of said support frame members;
 - a patient support deck having a head section and a seat section, said seat section including a deck plate oriented in a horizontal plane mounted to and extending between said support frame members;
 - a pair of laterally spaced support brackets on at least one of said base and said patient support deck

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adjacent to said seat section along a side thereof remote from said head section;

a guideway on each of said support brackets, said guideways extending generally horizontally;

a frame supported on said guideways for movement along a longitudinal path in a direction parallel to said elongate frame members between a first position stowed beneath said deck plate and a second position extending from beneath said deck plate on a side remote from said head section, said frame having a track thereon extending parallel to said longitudinal path; and

a receptacle mounted on said track for movement relative to said track in a direction parallel to said longitudinal path to positions at and between a third position stowed entirely beneath said deck plate and a fourth position wherein the entire receptacle is free of obstruction from above by said deck plate.

19. The patient supporting apparatus according to Claim 18, wherein said receptacle includes a handle.

20. The patient supporting apparatus according to Claim 18, wherein each of said guideways include a plurality of rollers spaced horizontally from one another with at least one of said rollers having an axis of rotation contained in a first horizontal plane that is elevationally spaced from a second horizontal plane containing axes of rotation of at least two other rollers.

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21. The patient supporting apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein said plurality of rollers is three rollers defining each guideway, each axis of rotation of each of said rollers which define one guideway being axially aligned with a corresponding roller in the other of said guideway.

22. The patient supporting apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein said frame is generally of a U-shape having a pair of parallel horizontally laterally spaced legs and a horizontally extending bight member interconnecting one end of each of the legs to one another, each horizontal leg having an elongate guide element which is positionally oriented between said first and second horizontal planes and resting on the rollers in the lowermost one of said planes.

23. The patient supporting apparatus according to Claim 22, wherein the rollers in each guideway are clustered adjacent said side of said seat section remote from said head section, and wherein said frame is supported on said rollers for movement between said first and said second positions relative to said side of said seat section remote from said head section, said first position corresponding to said bight member being horizontally spaced from the roller clusters, said second position corresponding to said bight member being juxtaposed said roller clusters.

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24. The patient supporting apparatus according to Claim 23, wherein first and second steps are provided on said frame for limiting the movement of said frame relative to said side of said seat section to said first and said second positions.

25. The patient supporting apparatus according to Claim 22, wherein said receptacle has an open top and a radially outwardly extending flange encircling said open top with portions thereof being removably and slidably supported on an upwardly facing surface of each of said legs of said frame which define said track.

26. The patient supporting apparatus according to Claim 25, wherein a length of said portions of said flanges supported on said upwardly facing surface of each of said legs of said frame is generally less than a majority of the length of each of said upwardly facing surfaces in order to facilitate a sliding movement of said receptacle relative to said frame between said third and said fourth positions.

27. The patient supporting apparatus according to Claim 26, wherein third and fourth stops are provided for limiting the relative movement between said receptacle and said frame.

28. The patient supporting apparatus according to Claim 18, wherein said receptacle has an open top and a radially outwardly extending flange encircling said open top with portions thereof being removably and slidably

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supported on said guideway, a length of said portions of said flanges being generally less than a majority of the length of each of said guideways in order to facilitate a movement of said receptacle relative to said frame between said third and said fourth positions.

29. The patient supporting apparatus according to Claim 28, wherein first and second stops are provided on said frame for limiting the movement of said frame relative to said side of said seat section to said first and said second positions, wherein said frame and said receptacle supported on said frame are configured so that when said receptacle is in said third position and when said frame is in said first position, said receptacle will be oriented entirely beneath said seat section and generally between said side of said seat section remote from said head section and said head section.

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30. The patient supporting apparatus according to Claim 29, wherein said side of said seat section remote from said head section includes a notch and wherein said configuration additionally accomplishes, when said receptacle is in said third position and when said frame is in said first position, an orienting of said receptacle entirely beneath said seat section so that said notch is unobstructed by structure of said frame and said receptacle.

31. The patient supporting apparatus according to Claim 30, wherein said configuration additionally accomplishes, when said receptacle is in said third position and when said frame is in said first position, a cantilevering of said frame and said receptacle thereon

Claim 32 is canceled.